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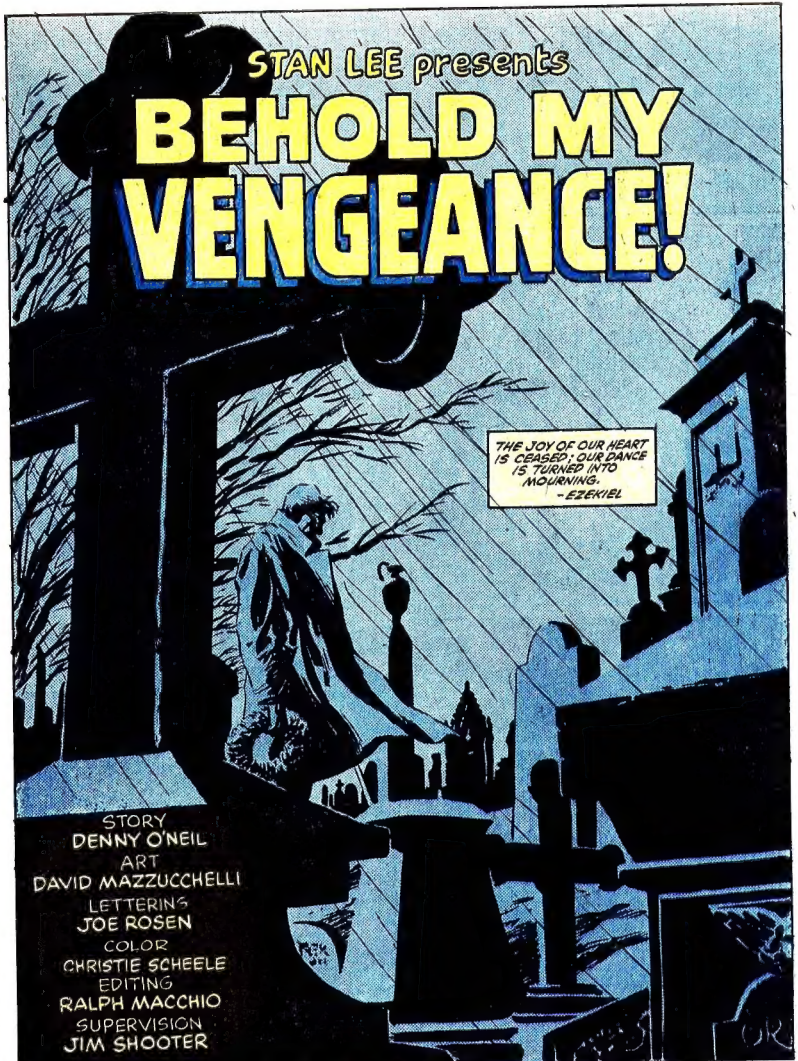
AUG
DAREDEVIL
DEATH IN VENICE



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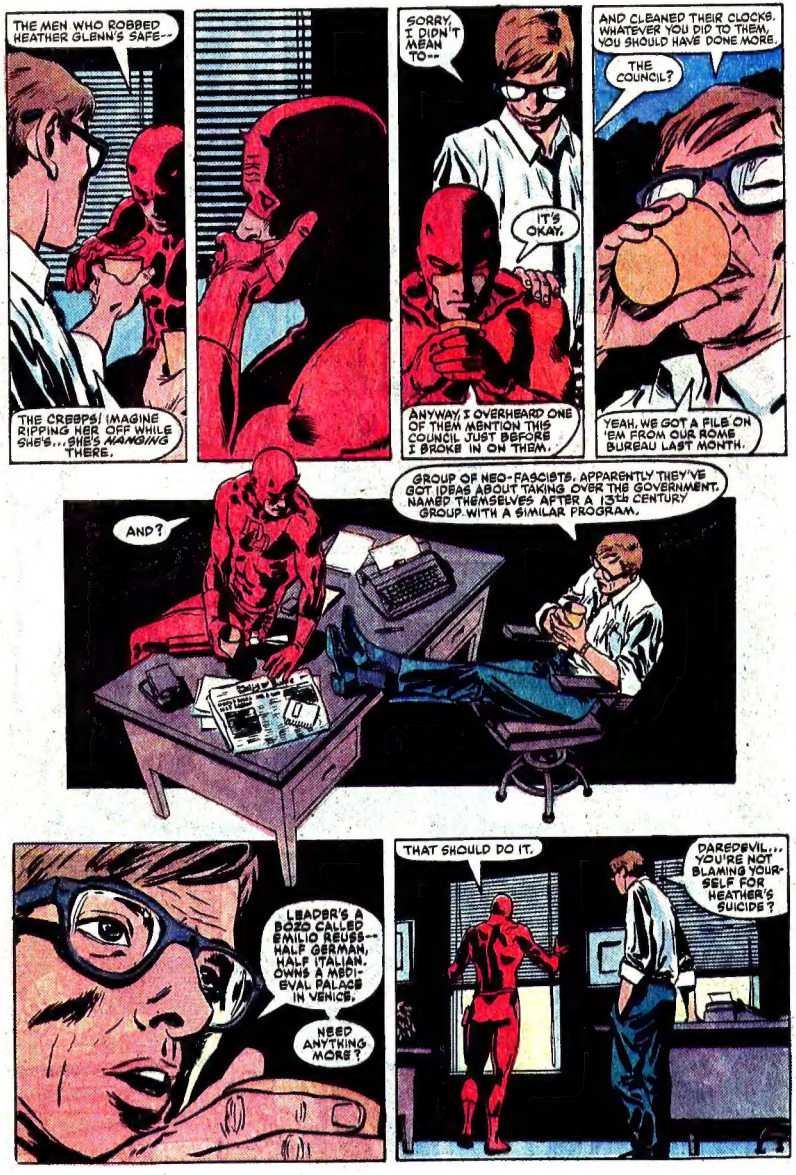
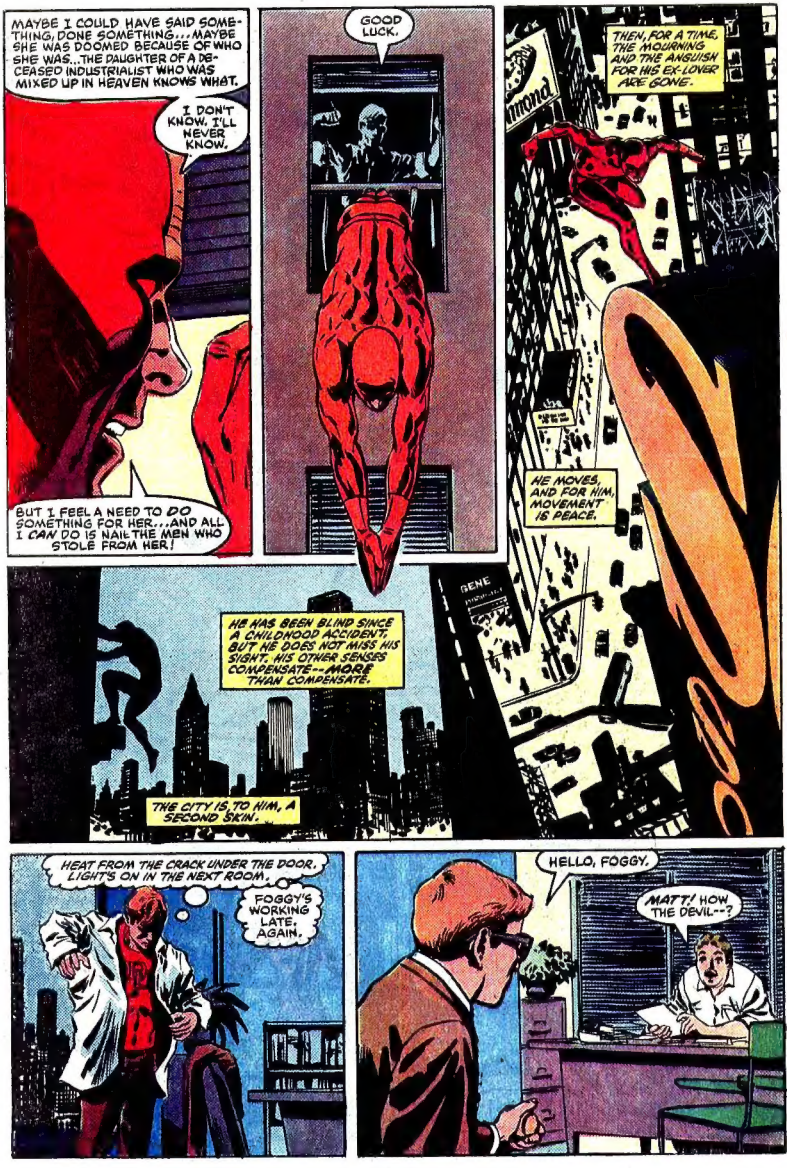
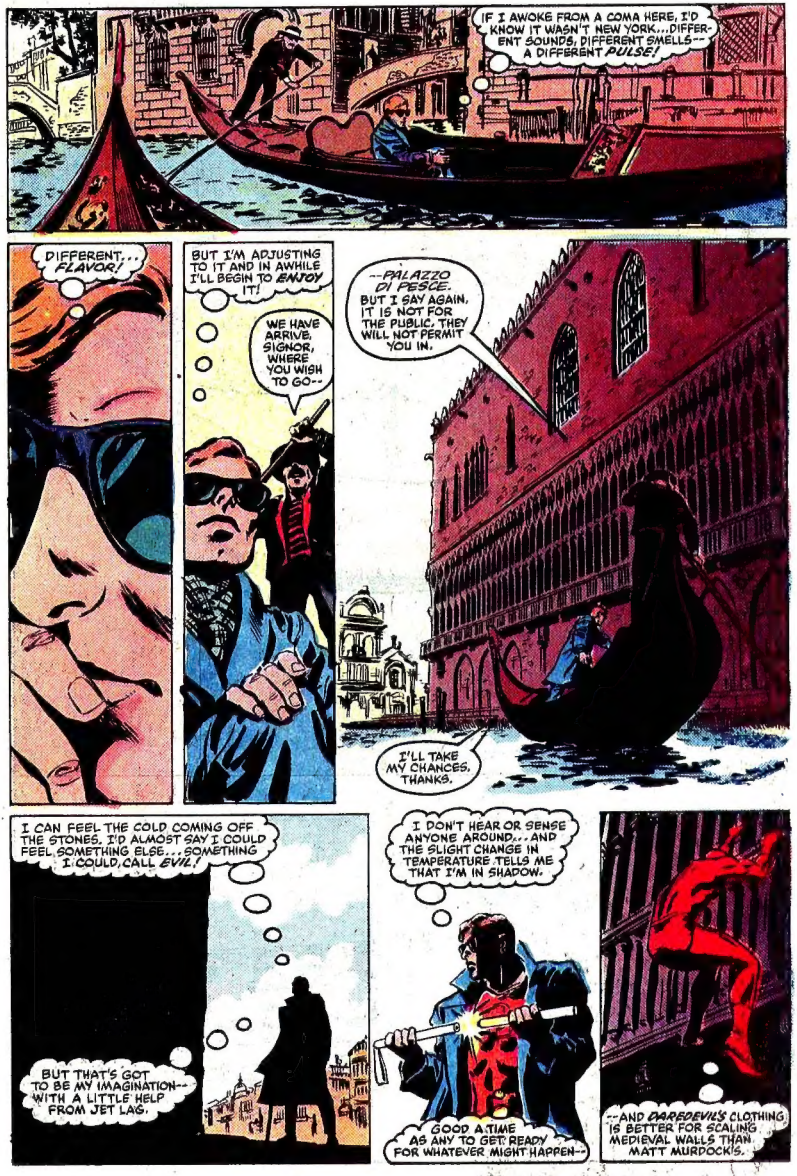
HEATHER GLENN
COLD FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR, HUH, BUDDY?
IT IS THAT.
YOU NEED HELP?
YES, I DO, BUT NOT CROSSING THE STREET.
THANKS.
WELL, WELL, LONG TIME NO SEE!
HELLO, BEN.
DAILY BUGLE
C'MON IN. MUST BE FREEZING OUT THERE.
IT IS A BIT CHILLY.
AT LEAST THE FOG'S GONE.
DON'T TELL ME, LET ME GUESS--
--YOU NEED INFORMATION.
ABOUT SOMETHING THAT CALLS ITSELF THE COUNCIL OF TEN.
THE ITALIAN BUNCH? HOW'RE YOU MIXED UP WITH THEM?


THE MEN WHO ROBBED HEATHER GLENN'S SAFE--
THE CREEPS! IMAGINE RIPPING HER OFF WHILE SHE'S... SHE'S MANGING THERE.
SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO--
IT'S OKAY.
ANYWAY, I OVERHEARD ONE OF THEM MENTION THIS COUNCIL JUST BEFORE I BROKE IN ON THEM.
AND CLEANED THEIR CLOCKS. WHATEVER YOU DID TO THEM, YOU SHOULD HAVE DONE MORE.
THE COUNCIL?
YEAH, WE GOT A FILE ON 'EM FROM OUR ROME BUREAU LAST MONTH.
AND?
GROUP OF NEO-FASCISTS. APPARENTLY THEY'VE GOT IDEAS ABOUT TAKING OVER THE GOVERNMENT. NAMED THEMSELVES AFTER A 13th CENTURY GROUP WITH A SIMILAR PROGRAM.
LEADER'S A BOZO CALLED EMILIO REUSS-- HALF GERMAN, HALF ITALIAN. OWNS A MEDIEVAL PALACE IN VENICE.
NEED ANYTHING MORE?
THAT SHOULD DO IT.
DAREDEVIL... YOU'RE NOT BLAMING YOURSELF FOR HEATHER'S SUICIDE?

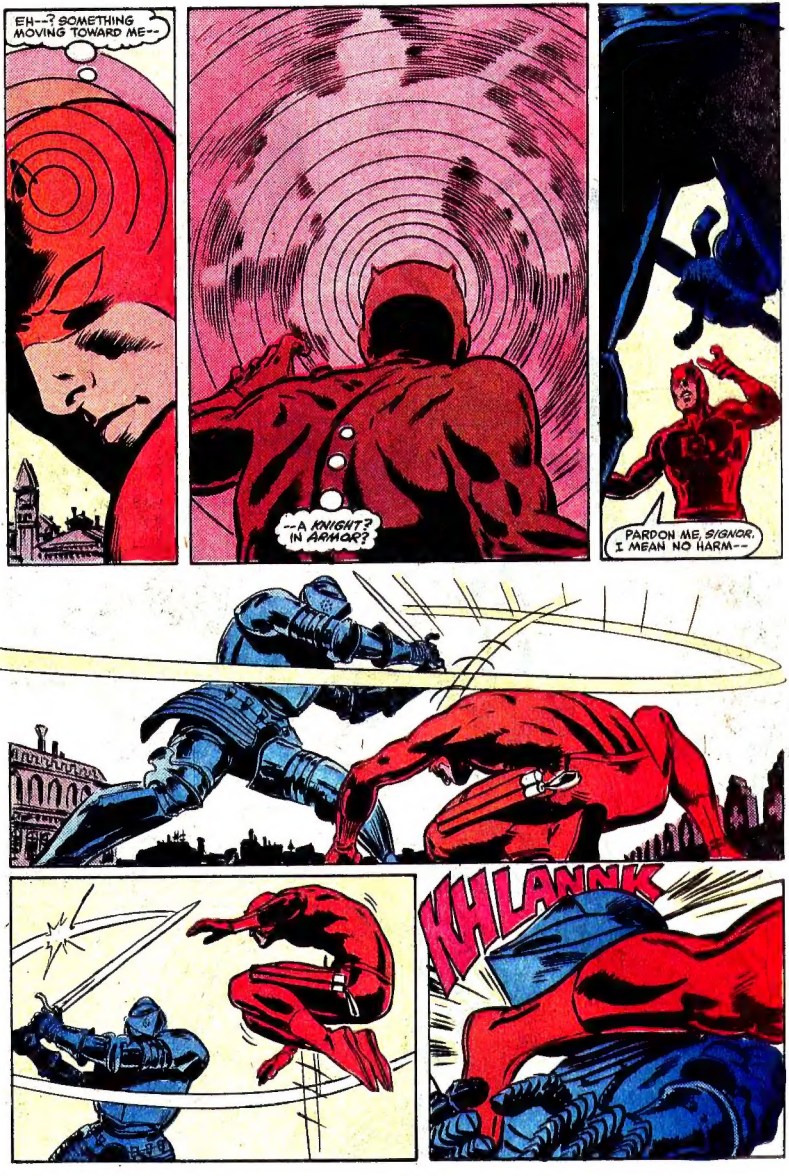

MAYBE I COULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING, DONE SOMETHING... MAYBE SHE WAS DOOMED BECAUSE OF WHO SHE WAS... THE DAUGHTER OF A DECEASED INDUSTRIALIST WHO WAS MIXED UP IN HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT.
I DON'T KNOW. I'LL NEVER KNOW.
BUT I FEEL A NEED TO DO SOMETHING FOR HER... AND ALL I CAN DO IS NAIL THE MEN WHO STOLE FROM HER!
GOOD LUCK.
THEN, FOR A TIME, THE MOURNING AND THE ANGUISH FOR HIS EX-LOVER ARE GONE.
HE MOVES, AND FOR HIM, MOVEMENT IS PEACE.
HE HAS BEEN BLIND SINCE A CHILDHOOD ACCIDENT, BUT HE DOES NOT MISS HIS SIGHT. HIS OTHER SENSES COMPENSATE--MORE THAN COMPENSATE.
THE CITY IS, TO HIM, A SECOND SKIN.
HEAT FROM THE CRACK UNDER THE DOOR. LIGHT'S ON IN THE NEXT ROOM.
FOGGY'S WORKING LATE, AGAIN.
HELLO, FOGGY.
MATT! HOW THE DEVIL--?

NEVER MIND. LISTEN, MATT, I'VE BEEN LOOKING AT OUR TAX SITUATION AND--
I'M GOING TO ITALY.
YOU'RE WHAT?
LISTEN, PARTNER, NO WAY! THE LAW FIRM OF NELSON AND MURDOCK IS RAPIDLY GOING TO HECK IN A HANDCART AND THE MURDOCK HALF OF THE PARTNERSHIP IS NOT--REPEAT NOT--SKIPPING OUT.
SORRY.
SORRY MY EAR! MATT, YOU TRAIPSED OFF TO JAPAN LAST YEAR AND A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO YOU WENT TO ARIZONA AND--
IT'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO DO, FOGGY.
OKAY! OKAY! BUT NELSON AND MURDOCK MAY NOT BE HERE WHEN YOU GET BACK!
YOU HEAR ME?
WELL, HAVE A GOOD TIME AND SEND ME A POST...
AW, HECK...

I HATE MYSELF FOR DOING THAT TO FOGGY. HE HAS EVERY REASON TO BE ANGRY--
--I HAVE NO RIGHT TO CHASE ALL OVER THE PLANET SLAYING MY PARTICULAR DRAGONS.
NOT HEALTHY FOR ME, EITHER. AFTER ALL, I'M AS MUCH MATTHEW MURDOCK AS I AM DAREDEVIL...AND I SHOULD NEVER NEGLECT THE MATT MURDOCK SIDE OF ME.
VENEZIA
BUT IF I STAYED IN NEW YORK I'D GO NUTS!
VENICE...A CITY BUILT ON A CLUSTER OF 120 SMALL ISLANDS IN NORTHERN ITALY, FOR OVER 1500 YEARS KNOWN AS THE QUEEN OF THE ADRIATIC.
HERE, MATTHEW MURDOCK PASSES BENEATH THE BUSTLE OF THE RIALTO BRIDGE, TINGLING WITH THE VITALITY OF THIS STRANGE METROPOLIS...

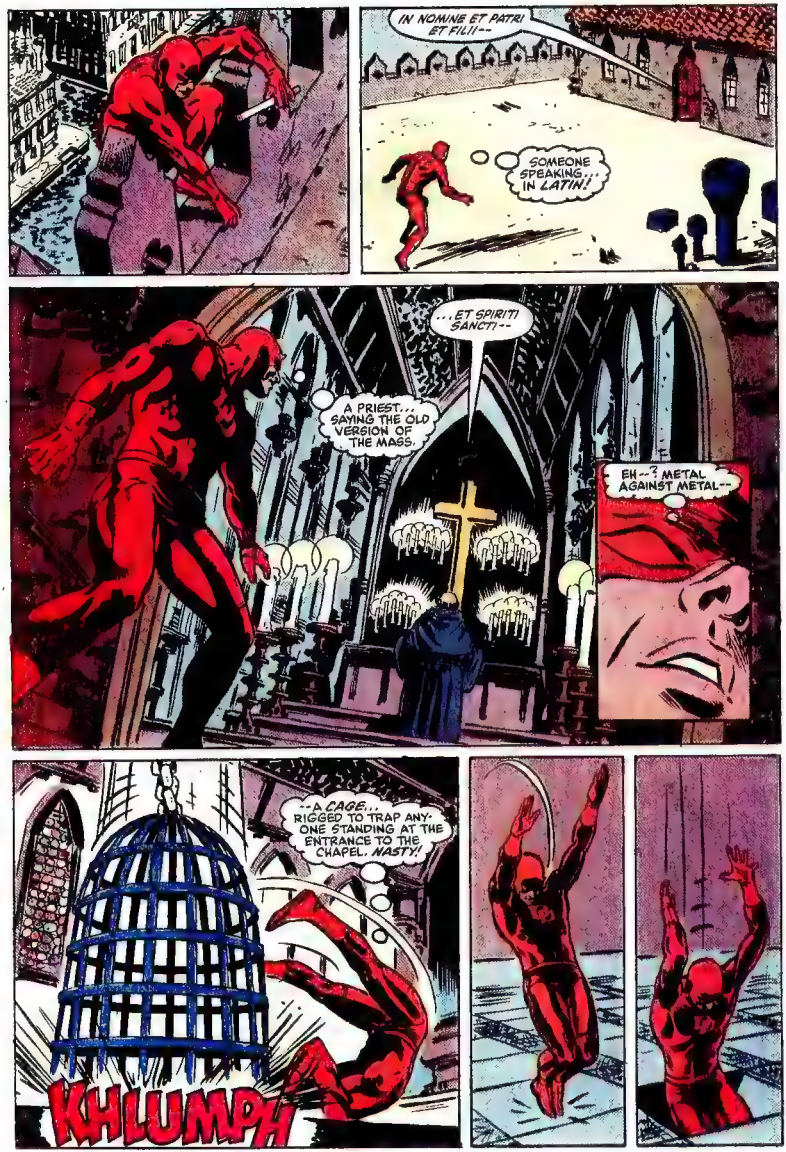

IF I AWOKE FROM A COMA HERE, I'D KNOW IT WASN'T NEW YORK...DIFFERENT SOUNDS, DIFFERENT SMELLS--A DIFFERENT PULSE!
DIFFERENT... FLAVOR!
BUT I'M ADJUSTING TO IT AND IN AWHILE I'LL BEGIN TO ENJOY IT!
WE HAVE ARRIVE, SIGNOR, WHERE YOU WISH TO GO--
--PALAZZO DI PESARO. BUT I SAY AGAIN, IT IS NOT FOR THE PUBLIC. THEY WILL NOT PERMIT YOU IN.
I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES, THANKS.
I CAN FEEL THE COLD COMING OFF THE STONES. I'D ALMOST SAY I COULD FEEL SOMETHING ELSE... SOMETHING I COULD CALL EVIL!
BUT THAT'S GOT TO BE MY IMAGINATION--WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM JET LAG.
I DON'T HEAR OR SENSE ANYONE AROUND...AND THE SLIGHT CHANGE IN TEMPERATURE TELLS ME THAT I'M IN SHADOW.
GOOD A TIME AS ANY TO GET READY FOR WHATEVER MIGHT HAPPEN--
--AND DAREDEVIL'S CLOTHING IS BETTER FOR SCALING MEDIEVAL WALLS THAN MATT MURDOCK'S.

SOMEONE IS CLIMBING THE WALL OUTSIDE.*
*TRANSLATED FROM THE ITALIAN, RALPHAEL.
IT IS PERHAPS THE DAREDEVIL THAT OUR AMERICAN AGENTS SPOKE OF?
HE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE?
SO IT SEEMS. HE HAS TRAVELED ACROSS THE OCEAN--
--TO HIS OWN FUNERAL!
YOU DO NOT HAVE TO MURDER HIM?!
MURDER, PRIEST? DEAR ME, NO... THE COUNCIL OF TEN DOES NOT MURDER!
YOU WILL LET SIR LANCELOT DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM?
YES.
KLIK
KLIK
NICE EASY CLIMB. GOOD BIT OF WARM-UP FOR WHATEVER'S NEXT--

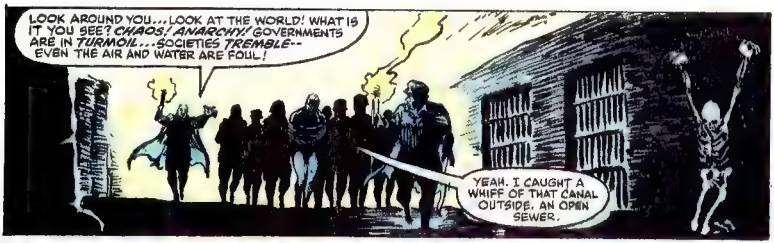

EH--? SOMETHING MOVING TOWARD ME--
--A KNIGHT? IN ARMOR?
PARDON ME, SIGNOR, I MEAN NO HARM--
KHLANNK

APPARENTLY THAT DIDN'T FAZE HIM!
AND NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY. HE HAS NO HEARTBEAT... NO HEART--
--HE HAS AN ELECTRIC MOTOR!
I'M FIGHTING A ROBOT--
--AND I AM IN BIG TROUBLE!
THE THING IS FAST --AND I'VE JUST RUN OUT OF RUNNING ROOM!
GOT TO THINK... HOW IS IT FOLLOWING ME? IS IT ZEROING IN ON MY BODY HEAT?
PROBABLY. THEN MAYBE I'VE GOT A WAY OF BEATING IT.
COME ON, FLIVVER-FACE! TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT!

KWHRASH


IN NOMINE ET PATRI ET FILII--
SOMEONE SPEAKING... IN LATIN!
...ET SPIRITI SANCTI--
A PRIEST... SAYING THE OLD VERSION OF THE MASS.
EH--? METAL AGAINST METAL--
--A CAGE... RIGGED TO TRAP ANY-ONE STANDING AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CHAPEL. NASTY.
KHLUMPH

AND NASTIER STILL.
THE AMERICAN DAREDEVIL, I PRESUME!
AND YOU'D BE EMILIO REUSS... OWNER OF THIS CHARMING PILE OF ROCK.
LISTEN AND LISTEN GOOD... I WANT YOU TO SURRENDER YOURSELF TO THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES. RIGHT NOW. IF YOU DO, I'LL TAKE IT EASY ON YOU.
YOU... WILL "TAKE IT EASY"... ON ME!
NO NO NO, AMERICAN DAREDEVIL... WHAT YOU WILL DO IS DIE!
THEN--
I SUPPOSE YOU WISH TO KNOW THE REASON FOR YOUR DEATH!
I HAVE THIS AWFUL FEELING YOU'LL TELL ME WHETHER I DO OR NOT.
IT MAY COMFORT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOUR DEATH IS PART OF A MAGNIFICENT PLAN.


LOOK AROUND YOU... LOOK AT THE WORLD! WHAT IS IT YOU SEE? CHAOS! ANARCHY! GOVERNMENTS ARE IN TURMOIL... SOCIETIES TREMBLE-- EVEN THE AIR AND WATER ARE FOUL!
YEAH. I CAUGHT A WHIFF OF THAT CANAL OUTSIDE. AN OPEN SEWER.

WE OF THE COUNCIL OF TEN SEEK TO RESTORE ORDER--AS DID OUR THIRTEENTH CENTURY NAMESAKE.
BENITO MUSSOLINI HAD SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN MIND, TOO. YOU REMEMBER BENNY--THE WORLD WAR TWO HOTSHOT.
HE WAS A GREAT LEADER!

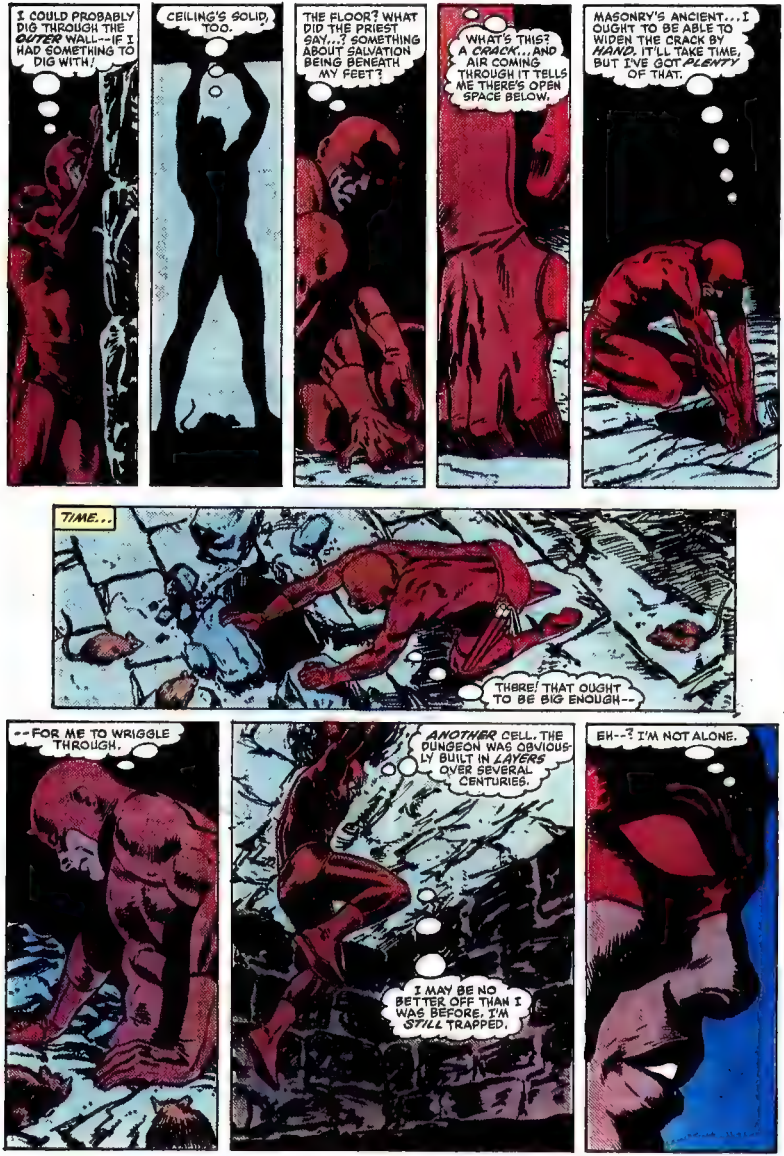
HIS MISTAKE WAS IN ALLYING HIMSELF WITH THAT MADMAN HITLER--THAT GERMAN SWINE! IT WAS HITLER WHO RUINED HIS MAGNIFICENT SCHEME.
WE WILL MAKE NO SUCH MISTAKE.

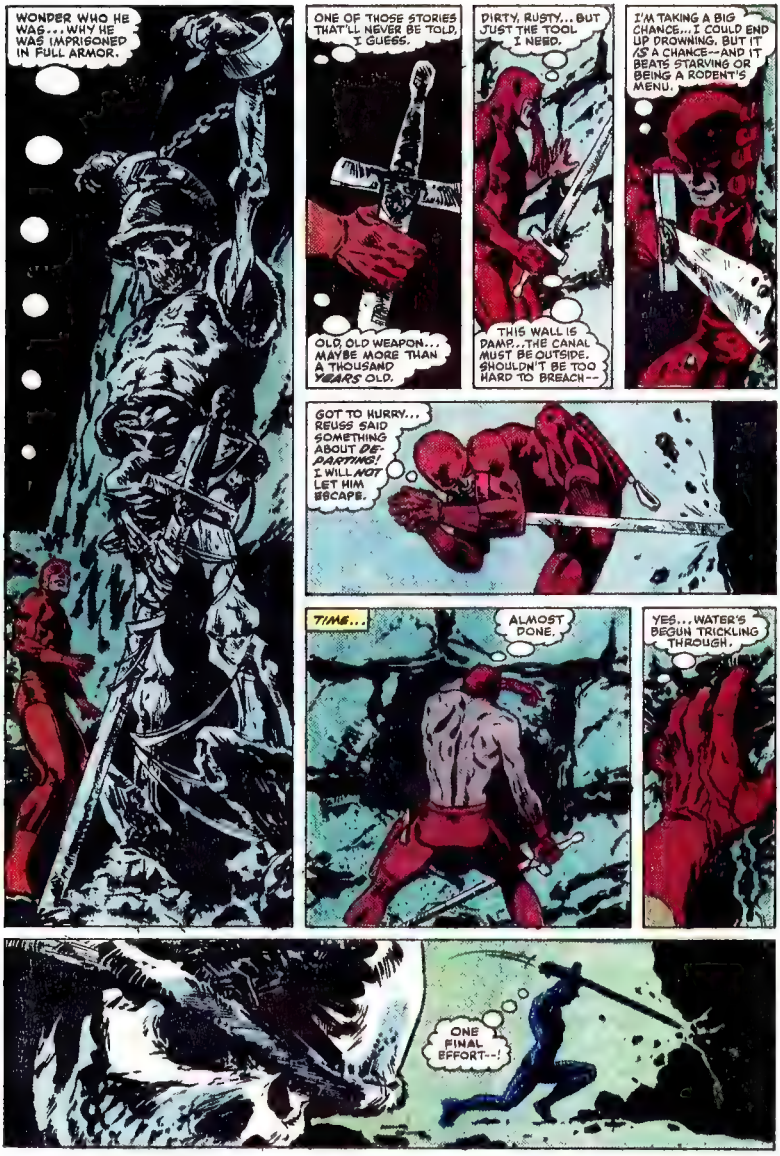
WE ARE MOVING QUIETLY... COLLECTING WHAT WE NEED FROM ALL OVER THE EARTH.

INCLUDING PATENTS? LIKE THE ONE YOUR PALS STOLE FROM HEATHER GLENN'S SAFE...
...THE PATENTS THAT ONCE BELONGED TO HER LATE FATHER--THE INDUSTRIALIST.

THAT WAS UNFORTUNATE. BUT WE MUST BREAK LAWS IN ORDER TO CREATE LAWS WHICH CAN NOT BE BROKEN!
SIGNOR REUSS... YOU ARE NOT GOING TO WALL HIM IN? THAT WOULD BE INHUMAN!

BE QUIET, LITTLE PRIEST.
SOON, WE WILL BE LEAVING THIS PLACE-- THIS MAGNIFICENT PALACE WHICH HAS BEEN IN MY MOTHER'S FAMILY FOR FIVE CENTURIES. IT IS OLD, CRUMBLING... PAST ITS USEFULNESS, BUT YOU, AMERICAN DAREDEVIL, WILL REMAIN BEHIND.
DO NOT FEAR THAT YOU WILL STARVE, HOWEVER--
--YOU WILL DOUBTLESS BE THE THE RATS' DINNER FIRST.
COME. WE PREPARE TO DEPART.
AMERICAN... HAVE FAITH. HAVE... HUMILITY. SOMETIMES THE SALVATION IS NOT IN THE STARS BUT IN THE GROUND BENEATH YOUR FEET.
NICE SENTIMENT, BUT IT DOESN'T DO ME MUCH GOOD AT THE MOMENT.
WHAT WILL HELP IS TO BE FREE OF THESE ROPES. I EXPANDED MY MUSCLES WHILE THEY WERE TYING ME--
--WHICH GAVE ME PLENTY OF SLACK, SO THAT'S NO PROBLEM.
THE WALL IS ALREADY SOLID. THEY MUST'VE USED A QUICK-DRYING MORTAR.
PROBABLY STOLE THE FORMULA.


I COULD PROBABLY DIG THROUGH THE OUTER WALL--IF I HAD SOMETHING TO DIG WITH!
CEILING'S SOLID, TOO.
THE FLOOR? WHAT DID THE PRIEST SAY...? SOMETHING ABOUT SALVATION BEING BENEATH MY FEET?
WHAT'S THIS? A CRACK... AND AIR COMING THROUGH IT TELLS ME THERE'S OPEN SPACE BELOW.
MASONRY'S ANCIENT... I OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO WIDEN THE CRACK BY HAND. IT'LL TAKE TIME, BUT I'VE GOT PLENTY OF THAT.
TIME...
THERE! THAT OUGHT TO BE BIG ENOUGH--
--FOR ME TO WRIGGLE THROUGH.
ANOTHER CELL. THE DUNGEON WAS OBVIOUSLY BUILT IN LAYERS OVER SEVERAL CENTURIES.
I MAY BE NO BETTER OFF THAN I WAS BEFORE, I'M STILL TRAPPED.
EH--? I'M NOT ALONE.


WONDER WHO HE WAS... WHY HE WAS IMPRISONED IN FULL ARMOR.
ONE OF THOSE STORIES THAT'LL NEVER BE TOLD, I GUESS.
OLD, OLD WEAPON... MAYBE MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEARS OLD.
DIRTY, RUSTY... BUT JUST THE TOOL I NEED.
THIS WALL IS DAMP...THE CANAL MUST BE OUTSIDE. SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD TO BREACH--
I'M TAKING A BIG CHANCE... I COULD END UP DROWNING. BUT IT IS A CHANCE--AND IT BEATS STARVING OR BEING A RODENT'S MENU.
GOT TO HURRY... REUSS SAID SOMETHING ABOUT DEPARTING! I WILL NOT LET HIM ESCAPE.
TIME...
ALMOST DONE.
YES... WATER'S BEGUN TRICKLING THROUGH.
ONE FINAL EFFORT--!

WATER PRESSURE'S FINISHING WHAT I STARTED...KNOCKING THE MASONRY LOOSE.

KNOCKING A *LOT* OF IT LOOSE--

ABOVE...
EMILIO...THE BUILDING IS *TILTING!*
THE ENGINEER ASSURED ME THAT IT WOULD BE SAFE FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER YEAR!

GET THE MICROFILMS AND THE IMPORTANT COMPUTER DISCS--!
DON'T BOTHER.

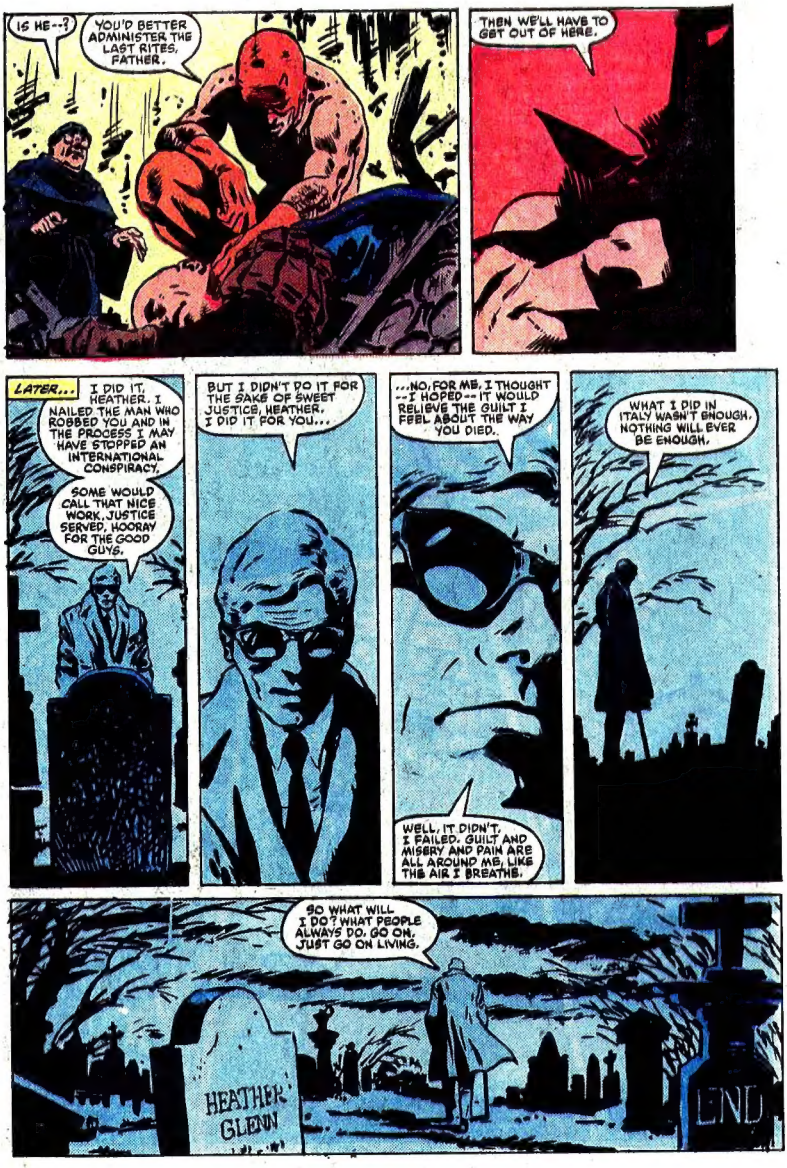
I WARNED YOU, REUSS. I ASKED YOU TO SURRENDER. I ASKED YOU *NICE!*

STOP HIM! *SHOOT HIM!*
YEAH--

--TRY!
UNGFF
BAM
BAM

HE IS IN THERE...EMILIO REUSS--IN THE CHAPEL. HE THINKS TO FIND SANCTUARY--
--BUT I HAVE REMOVED THE EUCHARIST AND IT IS NO SACRILEGE FOR YOU TO ENTER.
DOES HE HAVE A WEAPON ?
NO... I THINK NOT.

STUFF FALLING... FEELS LIKE THE PLACE IS COMING DOWN AROUND ME. SO MUCH NOISE... I CAN'T DISTINGUISH INDIVIDUAL SOUNDS.
RADAR SENSE IS CONFUSED, TOO.


IS HE--?
YOU'D BETTER ADMINISTER THE LAST RITES, FATHER.
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.
LATER...
I DID IT, HEATHER. I NAILED THE MAN WHO ROBBED YOU AND IN THE PROCESS I MAY HAVE STOPPED AN INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY.
SOME WOULD CALL THAT NICE WORK. JUSTICE SERVED. HOORAY FOR THE GOOD GUYS.
BUT I DIDN'T DO IT FOR THE SAKE OF SWEET JUSTICE, HEATHER. I DID IT FOR YOU...
...NO. FOR ME. I THOUGHT --I HOPED-- IT WOULD RELIEVE THE GUILT I FEEL ABOUT THE WAY YOU DIED.
WELL, IT DIDN'T. I FAILED. GUILT AND MISERY AND PAIN ARE ALL AROUND ME, LIKE THE AIR I BREATHE.
WHAT I DID IN ITALY WASN'T ENOUGH. NOTHING WILL EVER BE ENOUGH.
SO WHAT WILL I DO? WHAT PEOPLE ALWAYS DO. GO ON. JUST GO ON LIVING.
HEATHER GLENN
END

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

RALPH MACCHIO: editor — CRAIG ANDERSON: assistant editor

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP-387 Park Avenue South-New York, New York-10016

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Many of you wrote in asking why Daredevil wasn't in THE SECRET WARS. Well we can't keep the good news to ourselves any longer! DD may not have been involved in the *first* SECRET WARS (after all someone had to protect us from the bad guys), but Big Jim Shooter hasn't forgotten about him. We don't want to spill the beans, so all we'll say now is keep your ears open and your eyes peeled for DAREDEVIL #223 and SECRET WARS II #3! If you miss these two you won't get your USDA monthly requirement of action, suspense and drama!

Boyoboyoboy. We figured you guys would like a team-up, of sorts, between Daredevil and The Two-Gun Kid. Judging from the letters you sent us, that issue belongs in everyone's collection. Listen . . .

Dear Devilites,

DAREDEVIL #215 was what a D.D. story should be. Action-packed, thought-provoking, and just plain darn interesting. I liked the parallel between the Two-Gun Kid (I wondered when we Marvelites would see him again!) and D.D. Even though I've read several of Matt Hawk's stories, I'd plumb forgotten that in his secret identity he was a red-haired lawyer. Natch, the two of them, though separated by a hundred years, would wind up solving a case together. As you might be able to tell, I like the Two-Gun Kid a lot and I hope you might give consideration to a Two-Gun Kid Limited Series.

Evan M. Lanctot
San Francisco, Ca

A Two-Gun Kid series, Evan? Depends entirely on the success of the upcoming RAWHIDE KID Limited Series, a must for every rip-snortin' western fan. It's got some right purty good lookin' art by Herb Trimpe and John Severin, and the story by Bill Mantlo ain't too shabby either! It's a western yarn unlike any you've ever seen, coming at'cha the end of April. Don't miss it, pahdnuh.

Dear Marvel,

I just read DAREDEVIL #215 and it was fantastic. It had one of the greatest stories I've ever read.

Mike Matthews
Azuza, Ca

Dear Sirs,

You've done it again Denny. DAREDEVIL #215 was out-of-sight. The story was great. Thank you Marvel for making such great super heroes.

Francisco Fernandez
Birmingham, Al

Shucks, Mike and Francisco, all this flattery has put Denny at a loss for words. So, next issue will be scripted by — uh, just kiddin' Denny. Denny? Denny!!

Dear Marvel,

DAREDEVIL #215 was great, fantastic, superb, and excellent.

Daniel Papps
Rutherford, NJ

That's *all*, Dan? You forgot stupendous, magnificent, and incredible.

Ralph and Bob,

I never thought that a team-up between the Two-Gun Kid and Daredevil could work as well as it did in DAREDEVIL #215. the similarities between the two individuals were well-captured, and the movement from one time period to another was skillful and interesting.

Three cheers for the magnificent work of David Mazzucchelli, whose artwork has improved leaps and bounds since taking over the book. His set-up this issue was superb, especially the "black and white" effect that was used during the Two-Gun Kid segment. Christie Scheele continues to prove herself as one of the most adept colorists in the business.

"Prophecy" was the best single DAREDEVIL issue in a long time.

Thomas Long
Edwardsville, IL

Dear Marvel,

WOW! I've just finished reading DAREDEVIL #215. It was one of the best DD stories I have ever read. I've always loved the old western comics, and the Two-Gun Kid was one of my favorites.

Denny O'Neil's story was superb and the artwork was finely crafted. "Prophecy" was a very welcome sight. Keep up the good work.

Michael Whiteman
Montreal, Canada

Michael, shake hands with Evan Lanctot, another die-hard western fan! But then — aren't we all leather-slappin' fanatics at heart? Now, in a cloud of dust and a hearty hi-ho Marvel, let us leave the Two-Gun Kid and the thrilling days of yesteryear and return to gritty, present day New York —

Dear Ralph, Denny, and David,

Before me sits an issue of DAREDEVIL #216. With the return of The Gael I have discovered at last what has been occurring in this magazine of late. BRILLIANCE!

Everything about Daredevil these days I love. The art is phenomenal, to say the least. David Mazzucchelli, where did you learn to draw like that? Unbelievable. The stories have all been good and the characterization has been better than any before. Oh, and David, I really like the picture of Daredevil in the corner box now.

John Shepard
Long Beach, Ca

John, David says he learned to draw after many years of practice. That, and always eating his vegetables when he was a boy. As you can see becoming a good artist requires a lot of hard work and sacrifice.

Dear Denny and David,

Issue #216 was David's best issue yet. Since he started inking his pencils, he's become my favorite artist. Your faces, David, are the best I've seen from a new artist since Michael Golden. Glori is the most beautiful woman in comics today, except for the Invisible Girl. The final panel on the page where the Gael meets the I.R.A. was absolutely magnificent. And David, your cover designs are continually original.

Scott Sakatch
Lethbridge, Alta

The moody cover on DD #216 certainly demonstrates David's versatility, Scott. And in the months ahead there'll be much more to thrill you from the Mazz cover gallery. Why, take this issue for example. Not bad, eh?

Dear Denny, David, and Ralph,

DAREDEVIL #216 was another superb issue. "The Second Secret," marking the second appearance of the Gael, was chilling to say the least. The Gael showed a sinister glee in killing people that I don't even think Bullseye shows. Of course, the last page contained the biggest shock of the entire issue, revealing Glorianna O'Breen as The Old Woman of Breare. When Glorianna was first introduced into the book she said her father was a member of the Irish Republican Army, but I never thought that Glorianna was also associated with the I.R.A.

Lately David Mazzucchelli's artwork has taken on a new look since he is now inking his own pencils. It's great to see that David is able to capture the moody texture established by past DAREDEVIL artists.

Rod Billings
Brooklyn, NY

Dear Denny and David,

Thanks for DAREDEVIL #216. What an issue! You guys keep on making DD more exciting with each issue. Denny O'Neil is such a great writer and now David Mazzucchelli comes along and starts drawing Daredevil in a tremendously fresh, new, mysterious way. Thanks for making DD the top-notch comic book that it is.

Brian Swinehart
Pottstown, Pa

Thank you, Brian, and the rest of you Daredevil aficionados for dropping us all of those cards and letters. As long as you keep sending them we'll keep reading them.